

Air Evacuation School Graduates Largest Class of Flight Nurses

Diplomas Given 121 At Bowman

By JOE DUNCAN

One hundred twenty-one flight nurses, the largest class ever to be graduated from the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, were awarded diplomas in ceremonies yesterday in the base chapel.

The class was the first to receive golden air evacuation wings, presented by the Air Evacuation School officers' mess. Previous graduates, however, have been authorized to wear the wings.

One Kentuckian In Class.

The only Kentuckian in the class, the ninth to be graduated from the base, was Second Lt. Mary A. Spilman, 22, California. A graduate of Good Samaritan Hospital, Lexington, Ky., she entered service a year ago. Her father, James Spilman, here for the graduation, pinned on her wings informally after the ceremonies.

Lt. Col. Nellie V. Close, chief of the nursing section, Air Surgeon's Office, Washington, D. C., presented the diplomas and was herself awarded an honorary diploma in recognition of technical advice given during the school's early organization.

Fourteen medical officers were awarded diplomas upon completion of the air evacuation course, and ninety enlisted men were graduated as surgical technicians.

5 Hoosiers Graduated.

Five Indiana nurses graduated were Second Lts. Alice R. Kriebel, Linton; Irene P. Brown,

Brownsburg; Kathryn B. Haas, Indianapolis; Catherine Price, North Liberty, and Ellen J. Richards, Gary.

Another graduate of the eight-week course was Second Lt. Regina M. Brown, Albuquerque, N. M., recently awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" while participating in an

air evacuation transport mission in the South Pacific theater.

Double Role Emphasized.

"Your new assignments will take you to all parts of the world," Lt. Col. Richard L. Meiling, chief of the operations division, office of the air surgeon, told the nurses.

"Your job is twofold," he continued. "It is to care for your patients and to comfort them. Please don't forget the last, whether it be our own men or prisoners of war. Only you can do that."

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